



3653 #  
PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 8049.0012-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar Lee Avant et al.

Serial No.: 09/652,708

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS  
FOR READING AN  
IDENTIFICATION CODE FROM A  
MAILPIECE

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In a restriction requirement dated November 29, 2002, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between three groups of claims: Group I containing claims 1-14, Group II containing claims 16-84 (actually 15-84), and Group III containing claims 85-113. Applicants note that the Examiner did not mention claim 15 in the restriction requirement, but Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to include claim 15 in Group II, so that Group II would contain claims 15-84. The Examiner is requested to inform Applicants if this assumption is incorrect.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group II, claims 15-84, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to methods and apparatus for illuminating, focusing, and transmitting with a conversion of information to digital.

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This response is filed concurrently with a Petition for Extension of Time for two months and the required fee. Please grant any additional extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 26, 2003

By:

  
Lionel M. Lavenue  
Reg. No. 46,859

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